

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
CPR-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W  
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R 211858Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5457

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08400

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PEPR, SP, US  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO SPAIN

REF: MADRID 8342

1. IN RELAXED, PRIVATE CONVERSATION AT END OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY (REFTEL), KING JUAN CARLOS BEGAN BY REQUESTING I INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER OF DEEP AND SINCERE FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH HE AND OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SPANISH PEOPLE HAVE FOR U.S. HE WAS SURE PRESIDENT WOULD BE ABLE APPRECIATE THAT FULLY IN SPAIN AND HE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT VISIT VERY SOON. HE EXPRESSED READINESS MEANWHILE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN US. HE HAD HIGH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR LLADO'S INTELLIGENCE, DISCRETION AND LOVE FOR THE U.S. WHICH HE FELT SURE WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING RELATIONS.

2. I ASSURED KING THAT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE RECIPROCATED THOSE FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP AND ATTACHED  
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GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. DURING MY CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON I HAD BEEN STRUCK BY DEPTH, BREADTH AND STRENGTH OF ADMIRATION FOR KING, FOR SPANISH PEOPLE AND MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE MANAGING RETURN TO DEMOCRACY. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO VISIT MADRID IN CONNECTION WITH BONN SUMMIT CONFERENCE BUT UNFORTUNATELY PRESSURE OF EVENTS IN U.S.

DID NOT PERRIT HIM TO DO SO AT THIS TIME.

3. KING SAID HE APPRECIATED U.S. FRIENDSHIP FOR SPAIN, AN IMPRESSION HE WAS ABLE TO GATHER PERSONALLY DURNG HIS VISIT IN 1976. AT SAME TIME, HE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE MANIFESTATIONS OF THAT FRIENDSHIP AND VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT WAY OF SHOWING IT AT THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH SPANISH PEOPLE BELIEVE IN U.S. FRIENDSHIP SOME OF THEM WERE NOW BEGINNING TO QUESTION HOW GENUINE IT WAS, IF U.S. PRESIDENT WHO HAS VISITED SO MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, COULD NOT FIND TIME FOR A VISIT TO SPAIN. POSTPONEMENT OF A VISIT FOR TOO MUCH LONGER WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP STRONGER AND CLOSER RELATIONS WHICH SPANISH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO HAVE WITH THE U.S. HE HOPED VERY MUCH THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO SCHEDULE A VISIT TO SPAIN BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

4. FROM INSISTENCE AND STRENGTH OF KING'S REMARKS REGARDING VISIT, IT WAS OBVIOUS HE CONSIDERS IT TO BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO SPANISH PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US AND CONSEQUENTLY TO U.S.-SPANISH RELATIONS. TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, SP, US  
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